

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached replacement sheets of drawings include amendments to Figures 1-3 to add the reference number 11. These attached replacement sheets of drawings, which include Figures 1-4, replace the previously amended sheets of drawings which included Figures 1-4.

Annotated or marked-up sheets of drawings for Figures 1-3 are also attached. The annotated sheets of drawings show the proposed drawing corrections in red ink.

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

III. REMARKS

The Office Action rejected Claims 18-36. By the foregoing amendments, Applicants cancelled Claims 18-26, 31 and 36 without prejudice; and amended Claims 27 and 32 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 to further clarify the claimed invention or, in the alternative, to place the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Applicant believes that Claims 27-30 and 32-35 are now in condition for allowance.

Please note that Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the issues were raised in the Office Action for the convenience and reference of the Examiner. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' discussion and understanding of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's. Further, the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any particular reference and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and that reference.

A. Objection to the Drawings

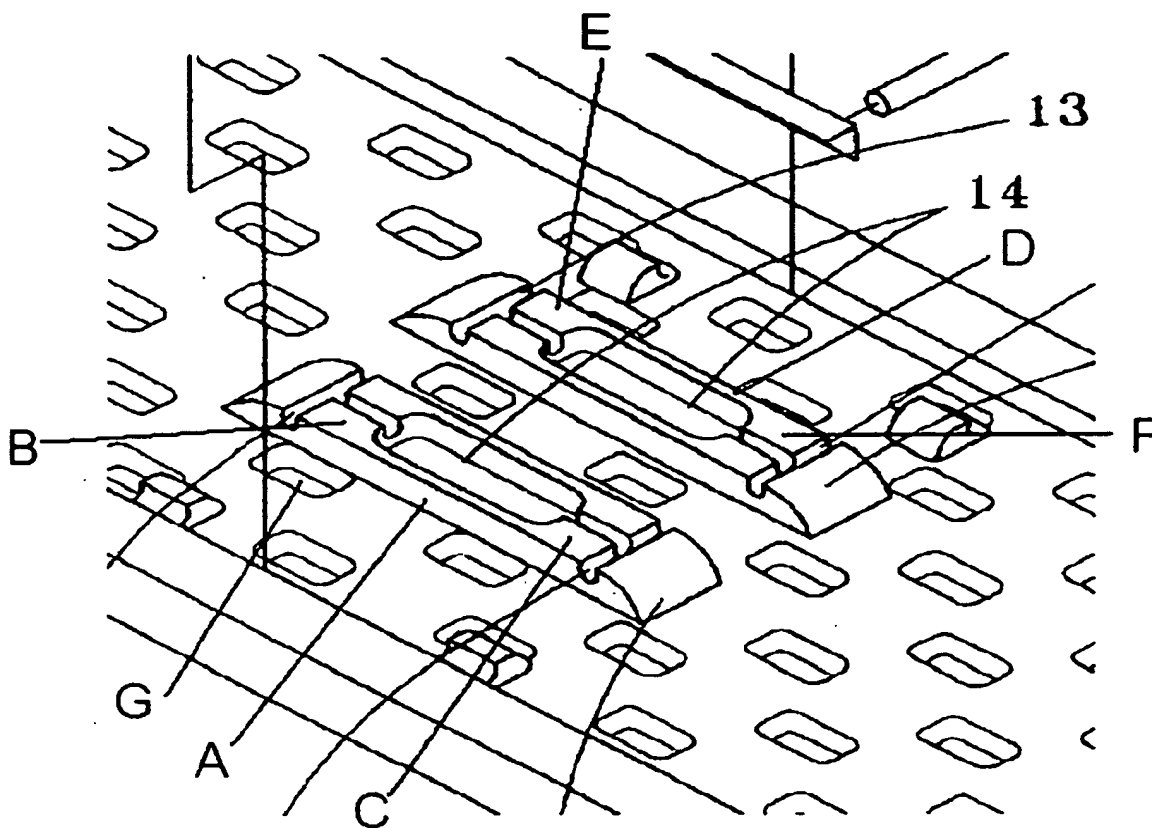
The Office Action stated that new corrected drawings are required under 37 CFR § 1.121(d) because the drawings filed on February 28, 2006 fail to show reference number 11.

Via the amendment above, Applicants amended Figures 1-3 to add the reference number 11. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

B. First Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejected Claims 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0233967 by Lin. In particular, referring to the following diagram, the Office Action stated that, regarding Claims 27 and 28, the *Lin* reference teaches a table with a blow molded tabletop with first and second leg assemblies (23) movable between extended and collapsed positions, a support assembly having a first (A) and second (D) mounting structures integrally formed in the table top, first and second support members (27), first and second crossbars (26), and a recessed portion (G) formed in the outer surface of the mounting structure to form at least part of a handle:



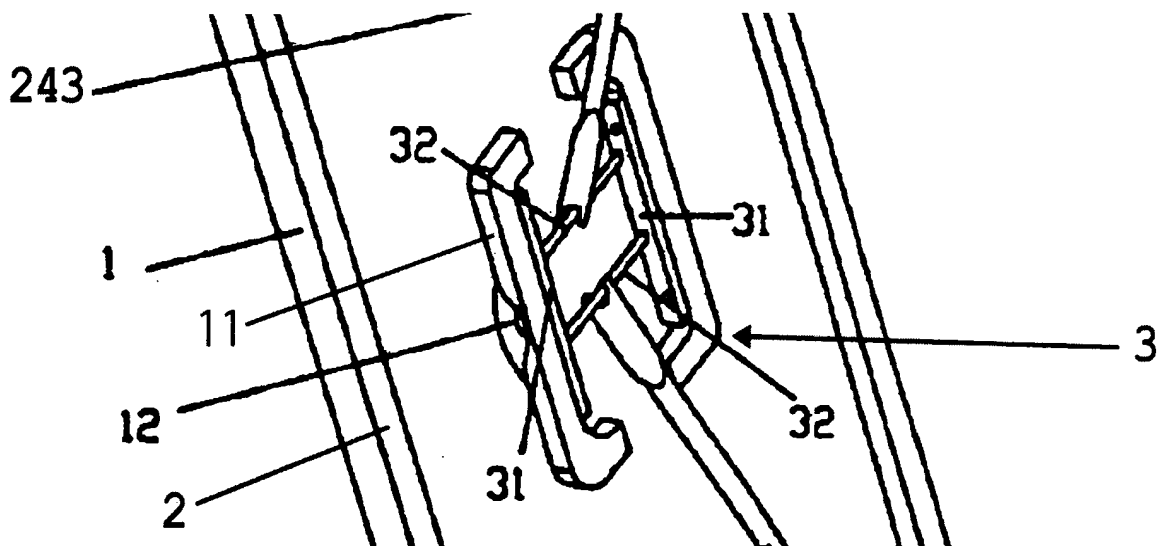
Lin, Figure 1 (detail)

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the *Lin* reference fails to disclose each and every limitation of Claim 27. Nevertheless, to further clarify the claimed invention or, in the alternative, to place the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, Applicants amended Claim 27. In view of these clarifying amendments, Applicants request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

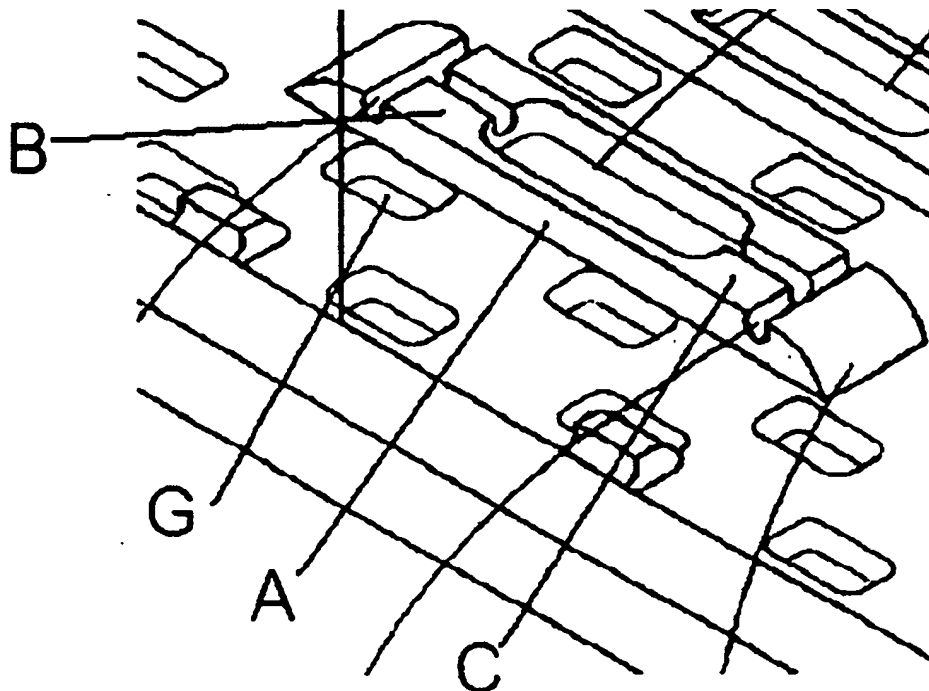
Applicant amended Claim 27 to provide “a recessed portion integrally formed in the outer surface of the first mounting structure during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, the recessed portion extending through a side wall of the first mounting structure and being disposed generally parallel to the lower portion of the table top, the recessed portion being sized and configured to form at least a portion of a handle.” Thus, Claim 27 positively recites that the recessed portion extending through a side wall of the first mounting structure and being disposed generally parallel to the lower portion of the table top.

Support for these features may be found, *inter alia*, in Figure 2 of the present application. For example, as shown in the enlarged portion of the Figure 2 below, a recessed portion may be formed in the outer surface of a mounting structure to form at least a portion of a handle 12:



Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

In contrast, the entire recessed portion labeled “G” by the Examiner is positioned below a lower surface of the table top shown in the *Lin* patent. In addition, the recessed portion labeled “G” by the Examiner extends downwardly and perpendicular to the lower surface of the table top, as shown below:



Consequently, no part of the recessed portion “G” is formed in the outer surface of the element “A.” In addition, no part of the recessed portion “G” extends through a side wall of a first mounting structure and is disposed generally parallel to the lower portion of the table top. Moreover, the *Lin* reference does not teach, suggest or disclose using this recessed portion “G” as a handle. In fact, the *Lin* reference does not label or even mention this recessed portion.

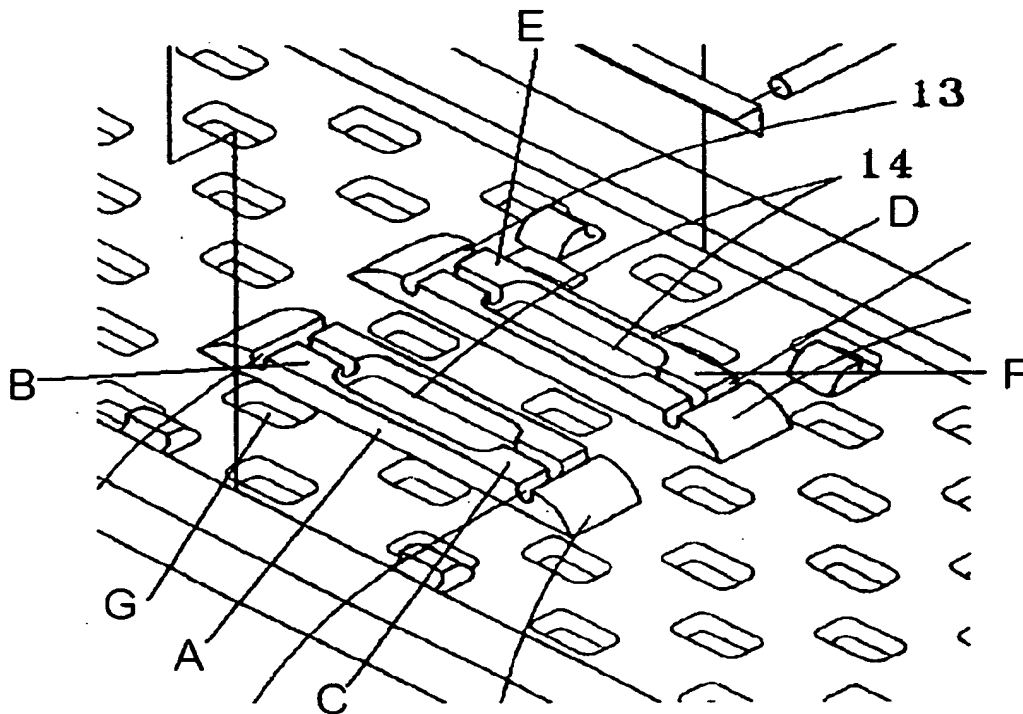
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 27 is allowable and request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

dependent Claims 28-30 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 27. Therefore, Claims 27-30 should now be allowable.

C. Second Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejected Claims 32-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the *Lin* reference. In particular, referring to the following diagram, the Office Action stated, regarding Claims 32 and 33, the *Lin* reference teaches a table with a blow molded tabletop with first and second leg assemblies (23) movable between extended and collapsed positions, a support assembly having a first (A) and second (D) mounting structures integrally formed in the table top, first and second support members (27), first and second crossbars (26), and a recessed portion (G) formed in the lower surface of the tabletop to form at least part of a handle:



Lin, Figure 1 (detail)

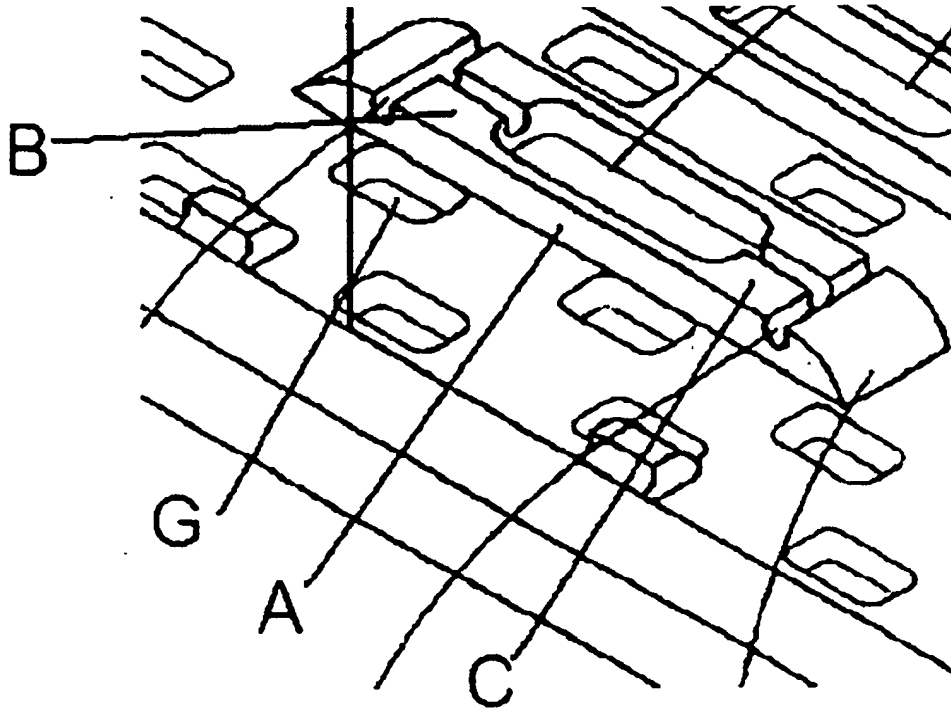
Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the *Lin* reference fails to disclose each and every limitation of Claim 32. Nevertheless, as mentioned above, to further clarify the claimed invention or, in the alternative, to place the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, Applicants amended Claim 32. In view of these clarifying amendments, Applicants request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn.

For example, Applicants amended Claim 32 to provide “a recessed portion integrally formed in the lower surface of the table top during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, the recessed portion being disposed between the first mounting structure and the table top, the recessed portion being sized and configured to form at least a portion of a handle.” Thus, Claim 32 positively recites that the recessed portion is integrally formed in the lower surface of the table top during the blow-molding process as part of a unitary structure, **the recessed portion is disposed between the first mounting structure and the table top**, and **the recessed portion is sized and configured to form at least a portion of a handle**.

In contrast, the *Lin* patent does **not** disclose, *inter alia*, a recessed portion that is disposed between the first mounting structure and the table top. The *Lin* patent also does **not** disclose a recessed portion is sized and configured to form at least a portion of a handle. As shown in Figure 1 of the *Lin* patent, no part of the recessed portion “G” is disposed between the first mounting structure and the table top, and no part of the recessed portion “G” is sized and configured to form at least a portion of a handle:

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003



Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 32 is allowable and request that this Section 102(e) rejection be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants submit that Claims 33-35 are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 32. Therefore, Claims 32-35 should now be in condition for immediate allowance.

D. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected Claims 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Lin* reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,622,644 issued to Buono. In particular, the Office Action stated, regarding Claim 18, that the *Lin* reference teaches a table having a tabletop of blow molded plastic with first and second leg assemblies (23) movable between an extended position and an collapsed position, a support assembly between the two leg assemblies and comprising first and second support members (27) and first and second crossbars (26). The

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

Office Action observed that the *Lin* reference fails to teach a handle connected to the first and second crossbars. The Office Action stated the *Buono* patent teaches a table with a support assembly between the legs and having crossbars (30) with a handle (40) connected between them. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the table of the *Lin* reference by adding a handle between the crossbars of the support assembly as taught by the *Buono* patent in order to provide the user a convenient means for picking up the table.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, *inter alia*, because the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every limitation of Claims 18-26 and because the cited references provide no teaching, suggestion or motivation to modify the cited references as proposed in the Office Action. Nevertheless, to place application in condition for immediate allowance or to place the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, Applicants cancelled Claims 18-26 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that Claims 27-30 and 32-35 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued.


If any further impediments to allowance of this application remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that these remaining issues may be promptly resolved.

Re. : Amendment and Response to Final Office Action Mailed July 6, 2006
Appl. No. : 10/692,141
Filed : October 23, 2003

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, which have not otherwise been paid, to Deposit Account No. 23-3178. If any additional extension of time is required, which have not otherwise been requested, please consider this a petition therefore and charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 2, 2006

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Title: FOLDING TABLE WITH HANDLES

Inventors: Shenghao, et al.

Docket No.: 15865.8a.1 / App. No.: 10/692,141 / Response to Final Office Action Dated: 07/06/2006

ANNOTATED SHEET

1 / 4

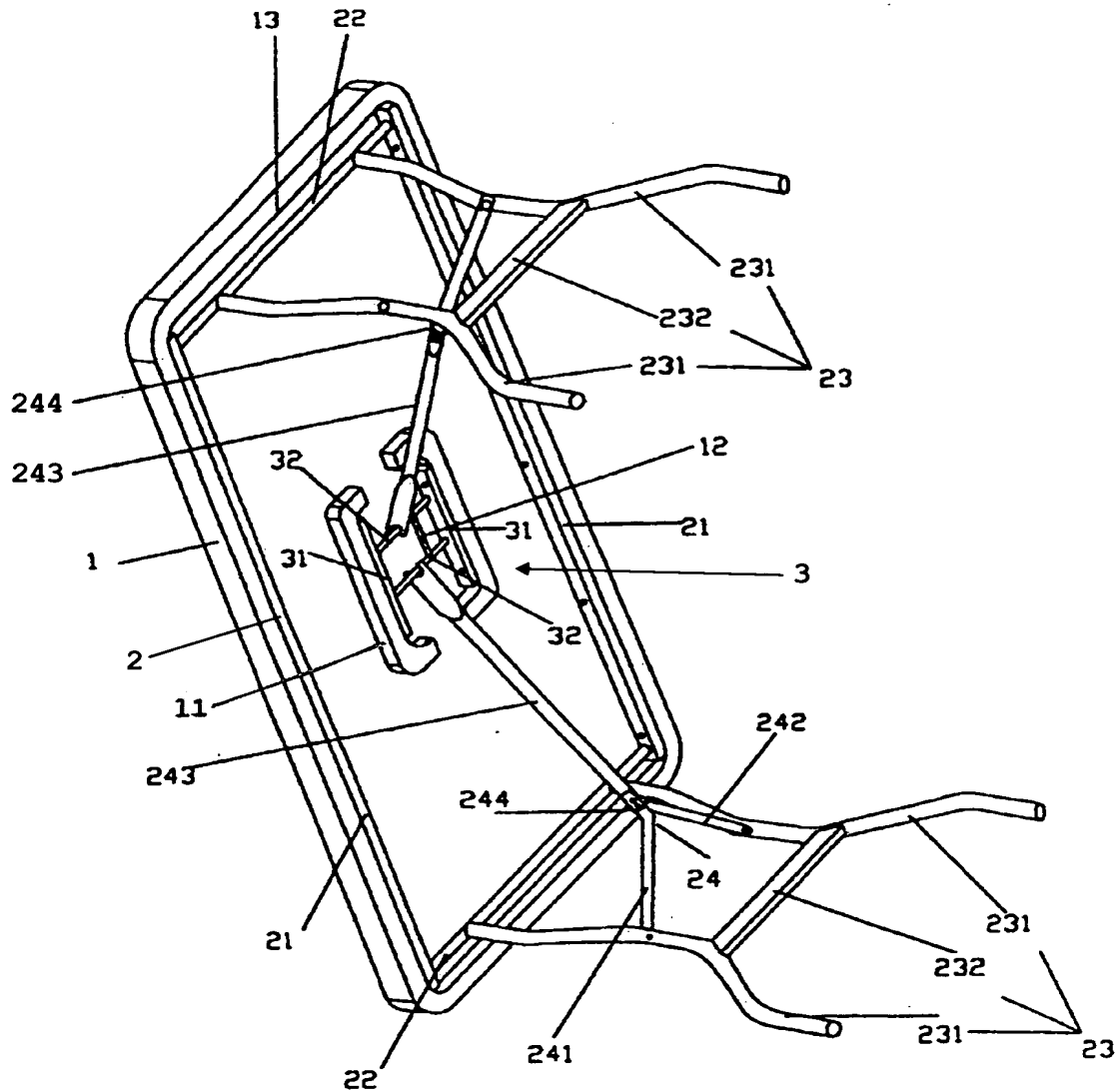


Fig. 1

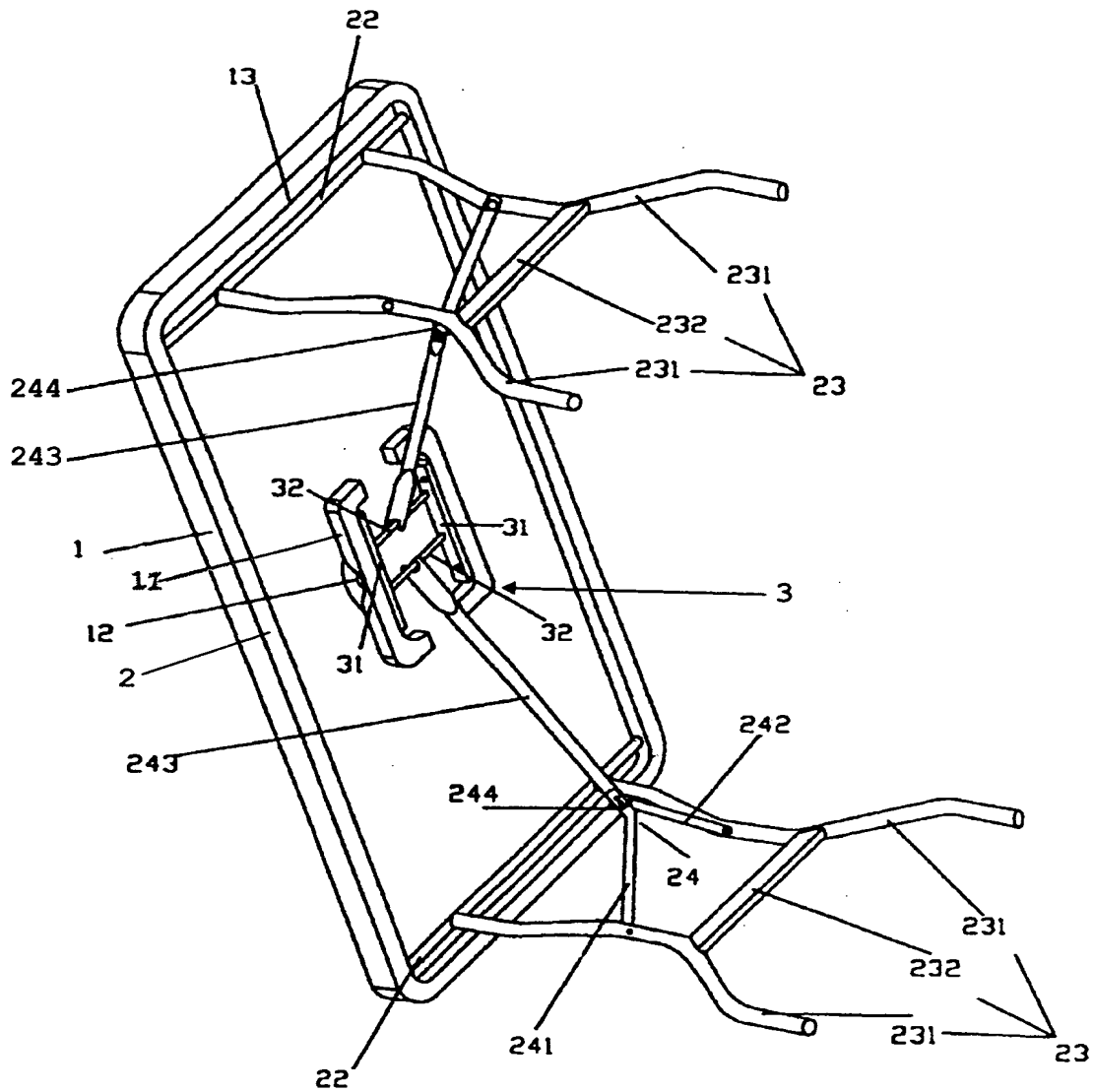


Fig. 2

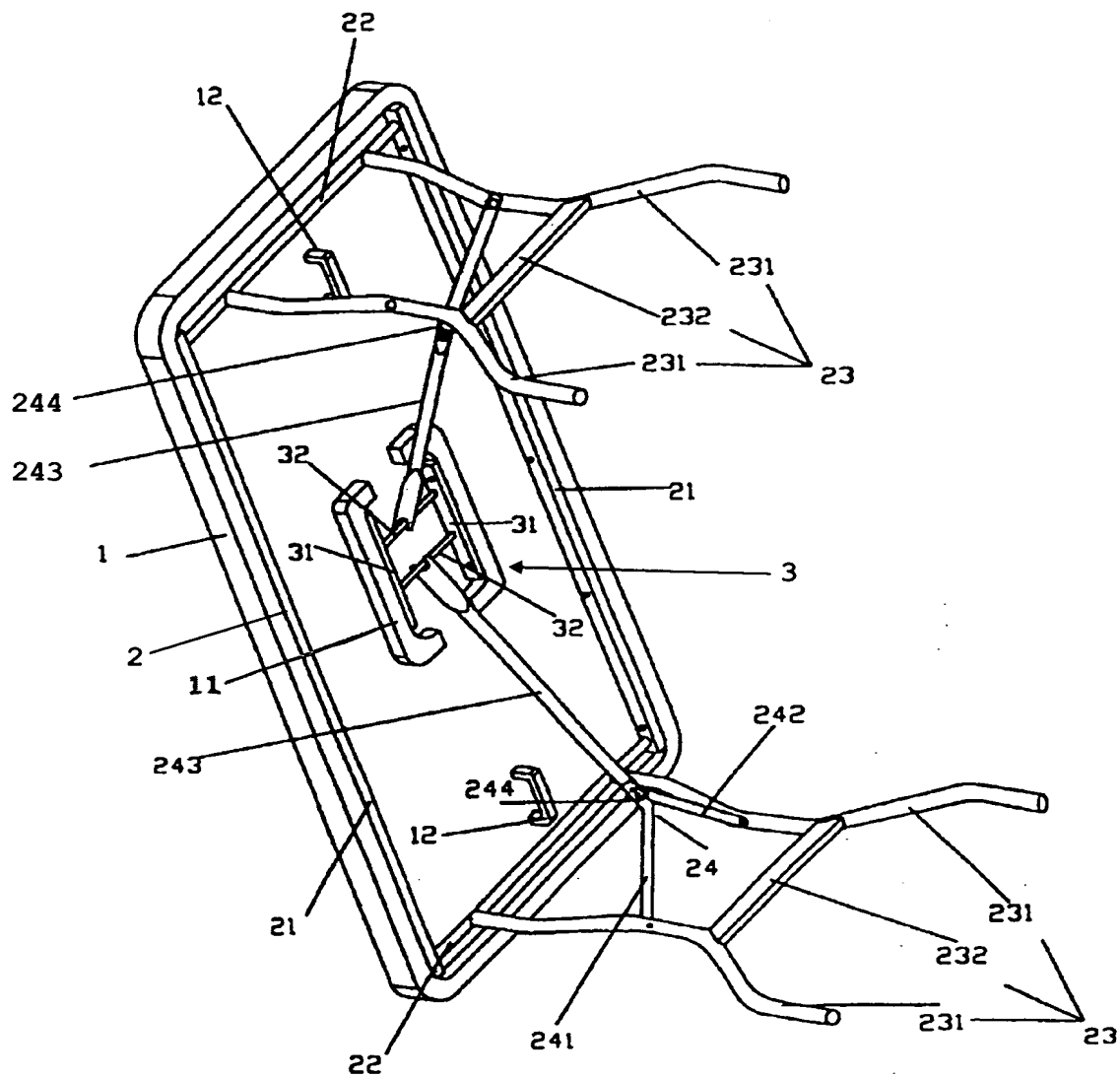


Fig. 3